

REMARKS

This Continuation-in-part Application adds additional disclosure concerning the embodiment of the Invention which was taught in the parent Application and depicted in Figure 8. As shown in Figure 8 of the parent, and which is identical to Figure 8 of this Application, the supporting arms 542 have stopper 542A. The purpose of stopper 542A is to limit the movement of support member 551. In this C.I.P., Figures 9-12 have been added and additional description to the Specification has also been added concerning the benefits of stopper 542 as well as an alternative embodiment for stopper 542. Figure 9 shows how stopper 542 operates when the pressure applying member is separated from the heating member. Specifically, Figure 9 shows that stopper 542A limits the movement of wheel 551. Figures 10 and 11 illustrates the urging power of spring 552 at the various positions. Figure 11 shows the stroke of support arm 542 at its various positions. Figure 12 illustrates an alternative embodiment of stopper and labels the stopper 542B. In Figure 12, stopper 542B limits the movement of spring 552B.

The purpose of a stopper is to limit the distance that the pressure applying member 510 needs to move between the position where it applies pressure to the heating member and the position where it is separated from the heating member. The stopper limits the distance while maintaining spring 542 is a pressed state. By maintaining spring 552 in a compressed state, the power which the spring delivers to pressure member 510 is greater than if spring 552 went from an uncompressed state to a compressed state in the same stroke length as provided by the present Invention.

In the parent Application, Claims 1, 2 and 16 had been rejected as being anticipated by Tsukamoto (JP 6-316349). Tsukamoto had been cited to teach heating member 1, pressure applying member 5, urging member 7 and changeover device 10. As can be seen by Figure 2(b) and Figure 5(b), spring 7 goes from a fully extended state in Fig. 2(b), to a compressed state as shown in Figure 5(b). In order to move between these two states, lever 11 must move downward so as to allow spring 7 to be fully expanded and then continue downward to separate pressure applying member 5 from heating member 1. This can be contrasted against the present Invention as recited in Claim 1 because the stop member limits the expansion of the spring such that the spring never goes to

its fully extended state. Thus, Claim 1 is clearly not anticipated by Tsukamoto.

Furthermore, the use of the stop member in the apparatus of the present Invention provides benefits over the device shown in Tsukamoto. The benefits are that the stroke of arm 542 is reduced because the spring never has to extend to its full length. Additionally, because spring 542 is maintained in a somewhat compressed state, the power that it provides through the short stroke of arm 542 is greater than the power that would be provided in the same short stroke if spring 542 were fully expanded in order to provide separation of the pressure applying member from the heating roller to the point at which the pressure applying member made contact with the heating roller. The shorter stroke distance translates into the fact that the changeover device can be made smaller and more compact thereby providing a cost benefit. Respectfully, the benefits provided by employing a stop member of the present Invention are neither taught nor suggested by one of skill in the art based on the teachings in Tsukamoto.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the present Invention as recited in Claims 1-8 are patentable over the teachings of Tsukamoto.

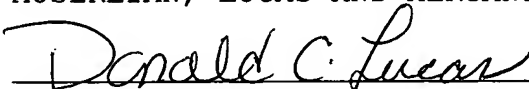
It is understood that the Examiner will review the contents of the parent Application to the prior art that was cited therein and, thus, Applicants do not need to provide copies of the references which were cited in the parent Application.

Finally, a typographical error was noted in the paragraph bridging pages 39 and 40 and that typographical error has been corrected herein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
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